Nuggets Of News

February, 2001

News, Photographs and Events of the Gold Hill Historical Society, Est. 1986
Meetings are held the third Wednesday each month at 6:30 PM at the Museum, 504 First Avenue, Gold Hill, Oregon
(except August when the annual potluck is held at noon on the Museum grounds on the Sunday following the third Wednesday)
Mailing address: Post Office Box 26, Gold Hill, Oregon 97525-0026 Telephone: (541) 855-1182
Museum Hours: Memorial Day through Labor Day (summer) - Noon to 4:00 PM, Wednesday through Sunday, except holidays
Labor Day through Memorial Day (winter) - Noon to 4:00 PM Friday, Saturday & Sunday, except holidays
Admission FREE, donations accepted

It's time again for an update to let everyone know what has been happening at your museum. Winter is professed to be our quiet time but these past three months have been far from quiet, in spite of shortened hours (noon till 4) and fewer days open (Friday, Saturday & Sunday) Here's what we've been doing....

WEBELOS HELP

Though we are happy for their shade during the hot days of summer, those same leaves become quite a problem when there are so many to be cleaned up in the fall. On November 10th and again on the 17th we welcomed Webelos Troop 43 from Patrick School, their leaders and the parents and family members who worked so diligently to do the leaf clean up for us. We thank you so much for your help!

BUDGET 2001/2002

Our budget for fiscal year 2001/2002 was drafted after many hours poring over past financial statements and trying to predict what the future holds for utility rates and other costs associated with operating the museum. It was submitted to Southern Oregon Historical Society, who packages ours, along with the other Jackson County History Museums Association members, and then presents it to the county in one package. County hearings take place in spring. Please see article on page 5 for the latest news on this.

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CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

On December 9th we had our Christmas program for children and what fun we all had. We strung popcorn and cranberries, made paper chains and made gift wrap by stamping shelf paper with sponge shapes and poster paint. The latter proved to be quite messy and hard to dry so the masterpieces could be taken home, but the popcorn and cranberry stringing and paper chains were great fun and provided some very impressive decorations for the participants to take home. We were amazed at how dexterous even the very small fingers were at these tasks. All of the adults enjoyed it so much, too, that next year we hope to have a "nostalgia" program for our seniors with popcorn stringing and some other activities.

HAYS CEMETERY

After months of anticipation, on December 20th, we were invited to the Jackson County Board of Commissioners meeting to accept the deed to the Hays Cemetery.

Pictured below, l. to r. Armella Wharton, Clare Moore, Lyn Parker, Jack Walker, Marge Martin, Ric Holt, Sue Kupillas, Rolen Rosecrans and Ted Wharton.

Rolen Rosecrans served as sexton for many years, and it is our fervent hope that he will continue in this position.

The cemetery had been "lost" to county tax rolls due to an error in the description when the one acre parcel was deeded "to the public" in 1897. The ownership situation was discovered approximately nine years ago and since that time the county has been working to obtain a clear title. Ownership of the cemetery requires non-profit status and commitment to care for and preserve it. That made Gold Hill Historical Society the logical recipient of this rich lode of local history.

Hays Cemetery is approximately one acre, surrounded by private land and is currently accessible only by permission, through farm gates. It is on land which was part of the original Jacob Gall ranch. This 300 acre ranch was purchased from Gall by James Willis (Bill) Hay. The earliest known grave is that of Jacob Gall, for whom Galls Creek was named. He died April 7, 1856 at the age of 53. Near his grave is a grave of an unknown infant. It is said the baby was buried at night for safety.

Hays Cemetery headstone of Andrew Cook, buried in 1892

The HAY name has gone through different spellings. James Willis Hay came to Oregon with his parents when he was 12 years old. They came by wagon train and took up a donation land claim in what is now Josephine County in 1854, on land west of what is now called Hayes Hill. Their name is spelled HAY on the donation land claim and early census records. Later the family spelled it HAYS and mapmakers differed and spelled it HAYES.

James Willis (Bill) Hay was the youngest child of William B. Hay and Elizabeth Sandberg Hay. His first marriage was to Sarah Ellen Wallace and produced one child, Ellen May. After Sarah's death, Bill married Sophronia J. Cook (December 12, 1870) and that marriage produced Lillie who married J. R. MacKay, Elizabeth who married William Flippin, Carrie who married William Puhl, Hattie who married Josiah Beeman, Edna who married Frank Schmidt, Addie Alice who married Burnham Menefee Dufur. Other children were John M., Ben and James W. Hattie Hay Beeman and Josiah Beeman were the builders of the Beeman/Martin house, which now houses our museum. Their daughter, Virgie, married C. W. Martin, and that's where the Martin part of the house name occurs. Sophronia Cook Hay died May 3, 1914 and Bill Hay died April 14, 1927. Both are buried in Hays Cemetery. Perhaps some of this history explains the different names for the cemetery, i.e., Gall/Hays, Hays/Cook and Hays. For simplicity, we will continue to call it "Hays Cemetery", always cognizant of the other family names intertwined with it.

Bill Hay was 12 when he arrived in Oregon with his parents. By the age of 14 he was fighting Indians during the battles of 1855/56, when the Hay home became a fort while miners, farmers, soldiers and packers took shelter there. He always loved mining and dreamed that one day he would make a big strike. That dream always eluded him. In the 1870's he owned and ran a blacksmith shop in Rock Point. He rode the stagecoaches from Sacramento to Roseburg. Later he owned a blacksmith shop and dance hall in Central Point. Sometimes his family lived in Central Point and other times he commuted from the 360 acres he owned along Galls Creek in Gold Hill. In his later years he had a blacksmith shop in Gold Hill where he was known as a great storyteller.

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MUSEUM CLOSED FOR HOLIDAYS

We did find it necessary this past Christmas season to close the museum for two weeks. So many of our "backbone volunteers" were obligated to be out of town with families that it was just not possible to keep the museum staffed. Hopefully future years will not see so many of our volunteers all having to be out of town at the same time, but Christmas is a time to be with family, and there are times when families come to us for the holidays and times when we must go to them.

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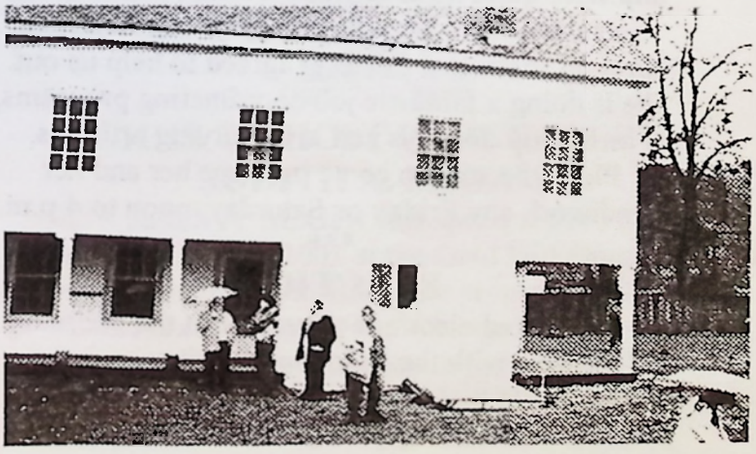
ROCK POINT STAGE STOP

1980's photo of Rock Point Stage Stop when new roof was applied

Many of us enjoyed a step back in time when we were granted a tour of the old stage stop at Rock Point on January 13, 2001. This is now the site of Del Rio Vineyard. The downstairs has undergone many renovations; however, there are still a few areas that give you a glimpse into the past. The upstairs is a wonderment in spite of the heating ducts that snake their way through to give the downstairs its upgraded central heat.



Looking over the outside of the stage stop before the tour.

The old, original wallpaper is still on the walls upstairs, much of it hanging in tatters from the rough sawn board walls. Many of these boards are 14 to 18 inches wide; some with bark still on the edges. We were able to see the dance hall, which saw many parties when the stage stop was known as one of the finest. It was easy to imagine the music, frivolity and occasional steps out onto the porch for a breath of cool air off the river on the hot summer nights. Many thanks to Jolee Wallace and her husband for allowing us this peek back in time.

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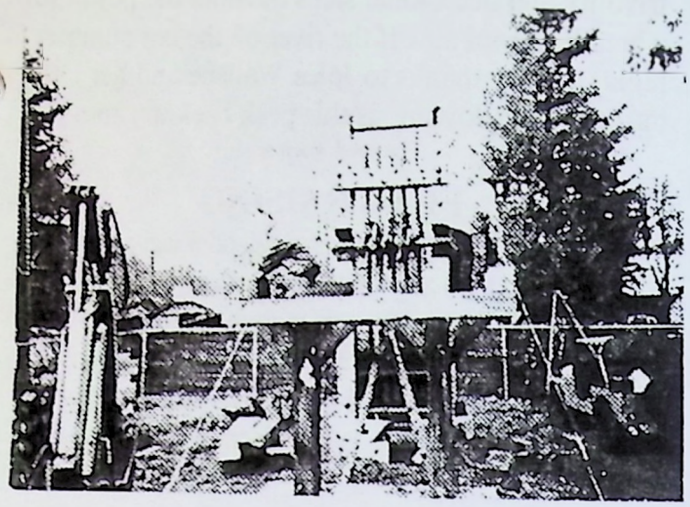
FLAG RAISING

Veterans Color Guard raised a new flag over the IOOF and Rock Point Pioneer Cemetery on January 16, 2001. The ceremony was quite impressive and reminded all of us that we need to honor our veterans of all wars. Marge Martin, Gloria Wood, Barbara Finnie, Rex & Lyn Parker attended for Gold Hill Historical Society.

STAMP MILL

After such a long time, much questioning and lots of planning, the final huge beams for the stamp mill were raised into place on January 20th, with many thanks to Art Glockler and his expertise with the Patterson Plumbing backhoe. Our volunteers who assisted were Ted Wharton, Matthew Saddler, Matthew McMahan, Don Moore and Rex Parker. It was a cold day but everyone was so committed that they all stuck with it. They even came back again on February 3rd and raised the last big drive wheel into place. All that's left to do is finishing touches, moving the John Deere into place after a pad is poured for it, and putting the belts on. It is sooooo....good to see all those huge pieces of wood up off the ground and bolted into place where they belong. Hat's off to Ted Wharton for his expertise in putting this 3-D jigsaw puzzle back together again.



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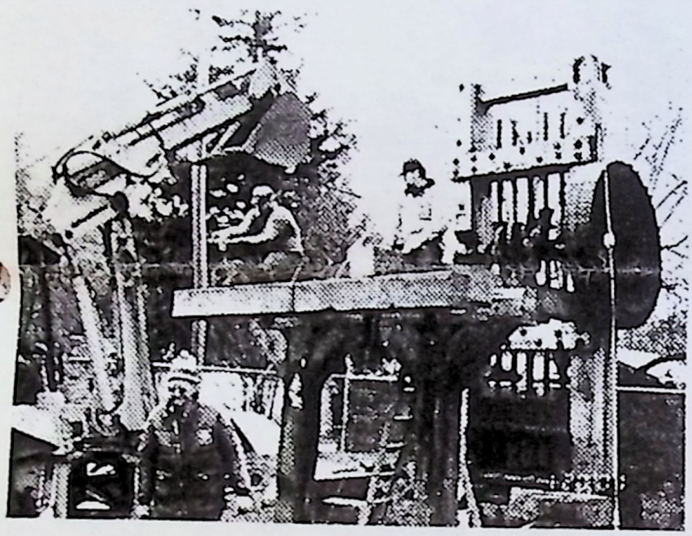

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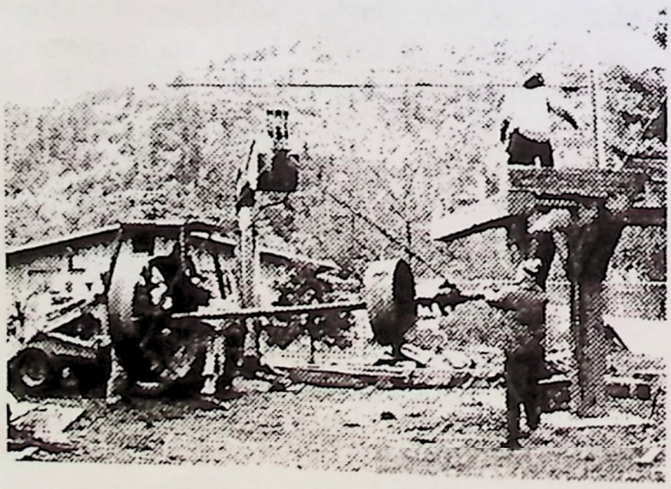

Photos of some of the final phases of rebuilding the Lucky Bart stamp mill.

CHINESE NEW YEAR

Chinese New Year was celebrated at the museum on February 1st with a program honoring the contributions of the Chinese in mining and the building of the railroad. Members of the Gold Hill Seniors as well as Food and Friends attended.

ON DISPLAY

Just some of the happenings at your museum

Simpler Times....Simpler Pleasures

A display of toys from the past

Valentines

A display of penny postcard Valentines which became popular in 1900

The Chavner Family

A display of photos and artifacts which tell the family story

Ben Hur Lampman

Beginning February 16th, a display of manuscripts and books written by Oregon's Poet Laureate, Ben Hur Lampman. Mr. Lampman was editor and publisher of *The Gold Hill News* from 1912 to 1916.

WELCOME ABOARD

We are so happy to welcome Gloria Wood aboard as our part-time paid Coordinator. Try as we might, we just didn't have enough volunteers to keep our society and the museum operating the way it should and were quite thrilled when Gloria (who was our Secretary and a part time employee at Southern Oregon Historical Society) agreed to help us out. She is doing a fantastic job coordinating programs, setting up displays and inventorying artifacts. Please be sure to come in to see her and her handiwork any Friday or Saturday, noon to 4 p.m.

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ELECTIONS

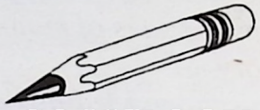
Annual elections were held at the February 21st meeting with the following results:

President	Lyn Parker
Vice-President	Marge Martin
Secretary	Janet Sessions
Treasurer	Clare Moore

Your officials for 2001 are the same as for last year with the exception of Janet Sessions who agreed to run for Secretary since Gloria Wood could not serve as an officer and hold a paid position. Many thanks for stepping in Janet, to help us out.

MEMBERSHIP DUES

Just a reminder, dues for 2001 were due January 1, 2001. Check your mailing label to see if your dues are current. If the number following your name is 01 or higher, your dues have been paid. If the number behind your name is 00, we have not yet received your dues. You can save us postage by using the form at the end of your newsletter to send in your dues without the reminder. Dues notices will be sent out within a week if we haven't heard from you by then. Thanks so much in advance for your help in this matter.



COOKBOOK

Please remember to send in your favorite recipes. We are still collecting them in hopes of being able to do another cookbook. We have quite a few, but not nearly enough for an entire cookbook. This can be a good revenue producer for us, but only if it is well accepted, and it can't be that unless we have lots of good recipes in great variety.

GHHS TO HOST PROGRAM BY JUDITH A. McGAW

Judith A. McGaw will speak at 7:00 p.m. on Friday, March 16, 2001 at the Gold Hill Grange, 404 6th Avenue, Gold Hill. Her program, called "*Women and Technological Change: A Historical Perspective*" is free and open to the public. The program is sponsored by Gold Hill Historical Society and Southern Oregon Historical Society, and has been made possible by funding from the Oregon Council for the Humanities, an affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities. OCH is dedicated to providing opportunities for life-long learning in communities around the state.

This presentation asks what women may already know about technology and whether their historic experience offers a different and useful perspective on technological change. Examining women and guns provides an opportunity to ask how the use of a technology deemed "masculine" affects women. The audience can ponder how technological change looks surprisingly different when viewed through female experience.

Research for Judith McGaw's book *If Men Wore Bras: What women Know About Technology* took the author to most of the 48 contiguous states to examine historic artifacts and interview women from widely different backgrounds who too often get left out of history. A teacher for nearly 30 years, McGaw is also an enthusiastic historian and avid hiker.

The program is free and open to the public. For further information, please contact Gloria Wood at 541-855-1182.

WOODVILLE MUSEUM PROGRAM

Woodville Museum is also presenting a program, "*A Woman's Place*" on Thursday, March 8th, at 1:00 p.m. at Morrow Heights. Admission is free.

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LEGAL PROCEEDINGS

As all of our members who live locally already know, on February 13 Southern Oregon Historical Society, on behalf of the fourteen members of the Jackson County History Museums Association, filed suit against Jackson County to ensure that the full amount of the Historical Fund is levied and distributed for the purposes set forth in the law. Gold Hill Historical society is a member of JCHMA and at our February 21st meeting we voted to concur with the other member organizations and give them our support. Following is an article written by Brad Linder, Executive Director of SOHS. Perhaps this will help explain why we feel this action is necessary.

An Intended Legacy

It was 1948; just three years after the great sacrifices of World War II, and Americans looked with renewed appreciation at the values instilled by the people who settled our country. In Jackson County, the voters realized that to preserve and share these values and the important history of their own families, they would have to set up a way to provide funds for the collection, preservation and interpretation of the objects and stories of the past, a legacy for future generations. So, the voters in

1948 enacted a levy which provides for a continuing Historical Fund dedicated solely to the operation of the County's historical societies.

Today, this Historical Fund supports the fourteen members of the Jackson County History Museums Association (JCHMA). On behalf of these fourteen historical societies, their members, and the communities they serve, the Southern Oregon Historical Society (SOHS) recently filed a lawsuit against Jackson County because of a dispute over the distribution of the Historical Fund.

The members of the JCHMA strongly believe the full equivalent value of this voter-approved levy should be dedicated to its intended purpose: the operation of historical societies, as clearly outlined in Oregon Revised Statutes 358.160-358.230. Although Jackson County officials received a legal opinion indicating they are no longer obligated to levy taxes for the Historical Fund, the Southern Oregon Historical society has secured legal opinion stating that the County must levy and distribute the funds for the purposes set forth in the law. This is the heart of the issue, which can only be resolved by this judicial process.

For over fifty years SOHS has had a good working relationship with Jackson County government. It has always been the hope of SOHS that this issue could be settled out of court. The trustees of SOHS and JCHMA are namely requesting in this litigation, that Jackson County government continue to fund the Historical Fund levy at the amount approved by the voters (25 cents/thousand) subject to adjustment by Measure 50, just as Jackson County has done for other levies including those for the library and sheriff. Regardless of the outcome of the pending litigation, SOHS trustees believe that the vote of the citizens of Jackson County should be honored with full support for historic preservation in our county.

The JCHMA provided public services to over a quarter million people last year. The Southern Oregon Historical Society alone manages and maintains 70,000 sq. ft., of County-owned property and another 30,000 sq. ft. of SOHS-owned property. SOHS has over 81,000 artifacts; 3,900 linear feet of manuscripts; 750,000 historic images; and 27,000 books, maps, and oral history transcripts—a valuable heritage that we can all use and share with others.

These numbers tell one kind of story about Jackson County historical societies; however, differences made in the lives of individuals and local communities help us understand the full story. An excellent example of this is North Medford High School student, Amber Krick, who participated in a History Day contest sponsored by SOHS. After winning locally, she went on to the National History Day Contest with her project on Oskar Schindler. Amber knows her History Day experience changed her life. "I look at history from a different angle. I'm more interested in government and other things. Before, I didn't care." Last year, another North Medford student, Jennifer Williams, competed in the National History Day Contest and she was invited to display her project about the Hubble telescope at NASA headquarters in Washington, D.C.

Josh Paddison started working at the History Center as a student intern and volunteer. He helped edit and write for the SOHS magazine, and he has gone on to be a successful editor in the Bay area, editing a series of major books on California history.

With downtown Medford's recent designation as a National Register Historic District, property owners have been able to use the SOHS library resources to document their building's history and develop plans to restore their structures to their original state—benefiting both the owner and the community as a whole.

Jackson County's fourteen historical societies are always looking for opportunities for preservation and improvement in their communities. As an example, Big Butte Historical Society in Butte Falls has proved to be a powerful catalyst in the development and increased pride in this local community by working closely with local leaders and interested citizens, to foster a renewed spirit of achievement in the town.

Striving to improve their community, the Upper Rogue Historical Society purchased the notorious Trail Tavern. Historical Society members converted the interior into a combination community center/exhibit space, with an outdoor interpretive display of local logging equipment. At the grand opening of the center, Jackson County Sheriff Bob Kennedy commented on the positive outcome this facility has had on the community, citing greatly reduced criminal activity that had once been part of the tavern.

These are just a few of the many examples of the ways the members of the JCHMA contribute to the people and communities they serve. These

positive, meaningful contributions were made possible by the voters of 1948 who had the vision to establish a continuing Historical Fund for preservation of the history valued. This is truly their intended legacy.

ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

Internet Gleanings

A POEM FOR COMPUTER USERS OVER 30

A computer was something on TV
From a science fiction show of note
A window was something you hated to clean
And ram was the cousin of a goat.
Meg was the name of my girlfriend
And gig was a job for the nights
Now they all mean different things
And that really mega bytes.

An application was for employment
A program was a TV show
A cursor used profanity
A keyboard was a piano.
Memory was something that you lost with age
A CD was a bank account
And if you had a 3-in. floppy
You hoped nobody found out.
Compress was something you did to the garbage
Not something you did to a file
And if you unzipped anything in public
You'd be in jail for a while.
Log on was adding wood to the fire
Hard drive was a long trip on the road
A mouse pad was where a mouse lived
And a backup happened to your commode.
Cut you did with a pocket knife
Paste you did with glue
A web was a spider's home
And a virus was the flu.
I guess I'll stick to my pad and paper
And the memory in my head
I hear nobody's been killed in a computer crash
But when it happens they wish they were dead.
--Author unknown.

GOLD HILL HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP/RENEWAL/VOLUNTEER FORM

Name: _____

Street Address: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Telephone: _____

☐ *Family Membership $6.00 per year*
New or Renewal

☐ *Contribution*

☐ *Yes, I would like to volunteer*
- ☐ *A few hours*
- ☐ *A day now and then*
- ☐ *A regular day*
  - ☐ *Monthly*
  - ☐ *Weekly*

Would you have time to:
--help at special events/programs
--be a greeter at the museum
--help inventory artifacts
--enter data in our computer
--help plant the Memorial Garden
--other _____

Return form to:
Gold Hill Historical Society
504 First Avenue
Post Office Box 26
Gold Hill, Oregon 97525

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Lyn Parker, President
Marge Martin, Vice-President
Janet Sessions, Secretary
Clare Moore, Treasurer
Ted Wharton
Rex Parker

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Museum Coordinator, Gloria Wood

Our Purpose & Goals

The Gold Hill Historical Society's Purpose and Goals are to collect, document and preserve the history of the Gold Hill area through:

Oral Histories
Photographs
Artifacts
Books

Happy St. Patrick's Day

Gold Hill Historical Society
504 First Avenue
Post Office Box 26
Gold Hill, Oregon 97525-0026

Eagle Point Historical Soc. & Museum
301 N. Royal Ave.
PO Box 201
Eagle Point, Oregon 97524